



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\*\*GUEST EDITORIAL\*\*\*\*

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**Wisconsin's school officials serve with distinction**

*By State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster*

I recently had the honor of speaking at the annual joint convention of the Wisconsin associations of School Boards, School District Administrators, and School Business Officials. As I joined them to address the many serious issues facing public education today, I was again inspired by the tremendous commitment of these dedicated public servants. They have some of the toughest jobs in the state, yet they consistently succeed in bringing local communities together around our shared responsibility to provide a quality education for our children. The leadership they provide has lifted our schools to national prominence in student achievement, and lifted our children toward their hopes and dreams of a bright future.

These local leaders and educators are willing to grapple with a host of difficult issues facing education today because they understand that the future of our state and nation will be determined by how successful we are in educating our children. Through serious challenges over the past few years, they have kept their strength and stamina. Through hard work and dedication, they have forged partnerships with business, industry, labor, government leaders, social services, and community-based organizations to advance the cause of education. Through their collective leadership and activism, they have united with others in a commitment to public education as the foundation of democracy and economic security in Wisconsin.

It's important that these local leaders and educators know their work is appreciated, and that all Wisconsin citizens who value the role of education join me in thanking them for the commitment they make every day, through their words and deeds, through their work with parents, students, and communities, and by building structures and partnerships for success at every level—nationally, in our state, and in our local communities—to ensure a quality education for all children.

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We recognize the importance of schools to the strength and vitality of our communities. The grass-roots leadership and vision shown by Wisconsin educators, including elected school board members, teachers and administrators, and professional staff, are responsible for the high level of public support for our schools. As state superintendent, I look forward to continuing to collaborate with these dedicated public servants as a forceful advocate for meaningful improvement in our education system. Along with the active involvement of Wisconsin parents, tremendous community support, and our students' hard work, we will continue to accomplish great things in our schools.

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*Elizabeth Burmaster is the elected state superintendent of public instruction.*

**NOTES:** To download a high resolution photo of the state superintendent, visit the Department of Public Instruction "Media Contacts and Resources" webpage at < <http://dpi.wisconsin.gov/eis/vm-media.html> >.